



ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

Newsletter from the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector

Ron Fuller, Chief Electrical Inspector

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SPECIAL EDITION

● New Legislation

The legislature recently passed SHB 5841 requiring eight hours of classroom training each year for all electrical trainees. ESB 6225 also passed the legislature. It has significant changes for everyone involved in the well drilling and pumping industry. It simplifies the contractor licensing and specialty electrician requirements. Both bills require rapid changes to the WAC rules to accommodate the statutory changes. Each WAC revision process costs thousands of dollars and a considerable allocation of time by L&I staff and stakeholders. In order to eliminate duplication of costs and time, the process this year will be significantly streamlined.

● The Department Is Seeking Stakeholder Input For Proposed Rule Changes

Any stakeholder in the electrical industry may make proposals for additions and/or revisions to the Washington Administrative Code WAC 296-46B – Electrical Safety Standards, Administration, and Installation electrical rules. Proposals, from stakeholders, may be submitted from May 1, 2006 through May 15, 2006. Proposal submission guidelines are detailed below.

Rules are developed to aid both stakeholders and the department in clarification or enforcement of the intent of the electrical statute. Technical changes require evidence of a specific problem and substantiation that the proposal will provide a solution for that problem.

The department is responsible and has final authority for developing all rules. The department will act as the correlating body during the rule development process and may at any time promote rule change as necessary to accommodate statutory change or department policies or procedures.

● Proposals For Change

The form shown in this edition must be used to submit rule proposals for the 2006 revision cycle. An electronic fill-in version of the form is available on our website homepage:

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Electrical>

Industry proposals **must be received from May 1, 2006, through May 15, 2006**. The submitter may submit a proposal(s) by:

- o Sending the proposal(s) as an email attachment to <mailto:TAC2006@lni.wa.gov>; or
- o Mailing a compact disc containing the proposal(s) to Chief Electrical Inspector, P.O. Box 44460, Olympia, WA, 98504-4460.

Proposals will not be accepted before or after these dates. All proposals to WAC 296-46B must be made electronically using the form supplied by the department. All proposals must clearly identify original language as “new text.” Proposed revisions should include the relevant existing text and should use the legislative format (i.e. Use underscore (or underlining) to denote wording to be inserted (e.g. inserted wording) and strike-through to denote wording to be deleted (e.g. ~~deleted wording~~)). **Proposals not submitted according to these instructions will be rejected.**

● Keep Informed

There will not be a specific mailing list for this WAC process. Special WAC update postings will be maintained using the Electrical Program’s *Electrical Listserve*, internet website, and *Electrical Currents* newsletter.

The best way to stay informed of the WAC process and other electrical issues is to join the *Electrical Listserve* at:

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/Main/Listservs/Electrical.asp>

● General Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The TAC process has proven to be very valuable in the past several years. The department will again appoint an advisory General TAC made up of experts and interest group representatives to review and make **recommendation** on proposals from the electrical industry.

Persons interested in becoming TAC members must submit a letter of interest for specific positions to the Chief Electrical Inspector, P.O. Box 44460, Olympia, WA, 98504-4460 **to be received no later than May 1, 2006**. The letter should show constituency support for the prospective member. All applications will be evaluated to determine: that the applicant meets the requirements for the position.

The General TAC makeup will be based on an equitable distribution relative to proportion of involvement within the electrical industry in Washington. TAC membership provides an opportunity for everyone interested in the Electrical Program's WAC development to participate in the process.

If necessary, each successful candidate may have an alternate attend the General TAC meeting. There will be no formal alternate assigned by the department. Any TAC member that is absent must notify the Chief Electrical Inspector of the alternate's name one day prior to the General TAC meeting. Failure to make the required notification will result in the position being vacant during the meeting.

● Pump Installer/Well Driller TAC Advisory Committee

SSB 6225 requires L&I to have a special TAC meeting with specific members of the pump installer/well driller industry. Discussion will be limited to issues specifically related to implementing SSB 6225.

● The TAC – Process

The TAC will make recommendations on industry proposals and identify proposals that may have an economic impact on other specialties, small businesses, construction costs, or the cost of enforcement. TAC representatives must have decision-making authority at the committee meeting. Members who know they will be absent from a TAC meeting should make every effort to send an alternate. The TAC must review and evaluate proposals based on the need:

- o To address a critical life/safety need;
- o To address a specific state policy/statute;
- o To maintain a fair competitive environment;
- o To address a unique character of the State; or
- o To correct errors and omissions.

The TAC will operate on a majority basis. A majority vote in support of a motion, of members in attendance, will be considered as significant support for the motion made on a specific proposal. The TAC can propose amended language to a proposal. All TAC members share an equal vote. The department will consider all TAC recommendations.

● 2006 WAC Revision Process – Proposed Sequence Of Events

- o **April 2006** – File CR 101 – pre-proposal statement of inquiry
- o **May 1, 2006** – Call for proposals from stakeholders to: amend or add to the existing WAC
- o **May 15, 2006** – Close proposal period
- o **June 7, 2006** – General TAC meeting, Tukwila L&I office
- o **June 8, 2006** – Pump Installer/Well Driller TAC meeting, Tukwila L&I office
- o **August 2006** – File CR 102 –rule filing (opens the official required public comment period)
- o **September 2006** – Public hearing(s)
- o **October 2006** – File CR 103 – rulemaking order (adoption)
- o **November 2006** – Effective rule

● General TAC – Membership

Chairperson– Chief Electrical Inspector (non voting)

1	Consumer	1	WA Manufacturing Business
1	Training School	1	JATC
1	Continuing Education Provider	1	Electrical Engineer
1	Electrical Manufacturer Representative	1	Electrical Testing Laboratory
1	L&I Inspection Supervisor	1	L&I Inspector
1	City Regulator	1	Electrical Utility
1	Telecommunications Utility	8	01 Contractor

Electrical Section Internet Address: <http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/electrical>

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1	02 Residential Contractor	2	06 Specialty Contractor
2	06A Specialty Contractor	1	09 Telecommunications Contractor
11	01 Journeyman Electrician	1	02 Specialty Electrician
2	06 Specialty Electrician	2	06A Specialty Electrician
1	AD HOC Specialty Contractor	1	07 Nonresidential Maint. Electrician
1	Plumber	1	AD HOC Specialty Electrician
1	Plumbing Contractor	1	07 Nonresidential Maint. Contractor

Total membership is 49 plus the Chairperson**Notes:**

- o All 49 positions are voting members.
- o Contractor positions must be filled by a licensed electrical/telecommunications contractor or representative of an electrical contractor's association in Washington representing that specialty.
- o Electrician positions must be filled by a certified electrician.
- o The AD HOC contractor and specialty electrician positions must be filled by a specialty not represented on the TAC.
- o The plumbing contractor position must be filled by a registered general or plumbing contractor or a representative of a plumber contractor's association in Washington.
- o The plumber position must be filled by a certified plumber.

License Type	# of Contractors	% of Specialties	TAC Members	# of Electricians	% of Specialties	TAC Members
1	2,451		8	15,141		11
2	291	12%	1	1,896	19%	1
3	37	1%	0	91	1%	0
03A	30	1%	0	75	1%	0
4	89	4%	0	259	3%	0
6	520	21%	2	2,207	22%	2
06A	808	33%	2	3,606	36%	2
06B	13	1%	0	16	0%	0
7	112	5%	1	1,185	12%	1
07A	14	1%	0	60	1%	0
07B	98	4%	0	415	4%	0
07C	2	0%	0	12	0%	0
07D	23	1%	0	53	1%	0
07E	5	0%	0	168	2%	0
9	408	16%	1			
10	24	1%	0	42	0%	0
AD HOC specialty			1			1
Total Specialties	2,474			10,085		
JW Multiplier	0.99			1.50		
Total	4,925		16	25,226		18

Notes for specialties: <5% = 0 members
5 to 19.9% = 1 member
20 to 39.9% = 2 members
>40% = 3 members
Ad Hoc specialty can be any unrepresented specialty

Notes for 01 Journeyman electrician: 01 members = # of total specialties times the JW multiplier
JW multiplier = # of 01 divided by the # of specialties

General Note: Unfilled positions will remain vacant

PROPOSAL FORM for 2006 WAC 296-46B Rule Changes

Mail CD to:

Chief Electrical Inspector
Department of Labor and Industries
Electrical Section
PO Box 44460
Olympia, WA 98504-4460

Email to: <mailto:TAC2006@lni.wa.gov>

FOR L&I USE ONLY

Specific Rule #:

Date Received:

NOTES:

1. All proposals must be **received from May 1, 2006 through May 15, 2006**.
2. Limit each proposal to a single rule section. Use a separate copy for each proposal.

Date submitted: _____ Name: _____

Representing: _____ Telephone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

1. Proposal: *Include new or revised wording, or identification of wording to be deleted. Proposed text should be in legislative format. Use underscore to denote wording to be inserted (e.g. inserted wording) and strike-through to denote wording to be deleted (e.g. ~~deleted wording~~).*

2. Statement of Problem & Substantiation for Proposal: *Note: State the problem that will be resolved by your proposal and substantiation for your proposal.*

3. Check one: ☐ This proposal is original material ☐ This proposal is not original material